

Minutes of CAUSEASM constituent group meeting held at CAUSE96

The meeting was held on Weds, Dec 4th from 430 to 545pm.  
There were about 35 attendees.

First discussion topic was distributed support for administrative applications. Craig Stewart of Indiana University shared the IU model for supporting applications. Trained people are placed out in the units as leveraged support from the central unit. Central funding for these resources is phased out over time. Wayne Donald shared his experiences at Virginia Tech. He is learning lots, but hasn't found a "silver bullet" to resolve the issues.

Next we talked about Year 2000 preparedness. We took an informal poll about where people would place themselves on a spectrum of readiness: Assessing and Planning; Relying on Vendor Upgrades; enhancing current systems; buying new systems; or already completed. Of about 30 respondents, my personal guess is that it was about evenly divided in the strategies, with one fortunate institution able to say that their software had been converted, and they are already compliant! There was a general discussion about size of the problem, various real-world experiences, PC based problems as well as mainframe, etc.

The third topic was optimum team composition for complex administrative projects. Some members noted that customer-led teams seem to be doing better than team led by technologists. I think we enjoyed knowing that others are struggling with this issue, but there were no detailed explanations of any guidelines for team formation.

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